Telephone Exchanges in the Country

2435. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of telephone exchanges in the country functioning at present;

(b) the number of state of art telephone exchanges;

(c) the number of conventional and oldest telephone exchanges requiring to be phased out but have not been phased out so far; and

(d) the number of state of art telephone exchanges working in the remotest part of the country with details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As in October, 2006, total 38044 number of Telephone exchnages are working in the country.

(b) All the telephone exchanges working in the country are Digital Electronic Exchanges and based on the state of art technologies.

(c) All Manual, Analogue and Electro Mechanical Telephone Exchanges have already been replaced by Digital Electronic Exchanges.

(d) At present no Telephone Exchange is being categorized as Remotest. However, as in October, 2006 total numbers of 29051 Rural Exchanges are working in the Country.

Surrendering of Landline Phones

2436. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of landline phone subscribers have been surrendering their phones throughout the country, if so, the details of the phones surrendered during the current calendar year in Delhi and other Metros, the details, month-wise;

(b) the number of the new subscribers during the same period, the details, month-wise; and

(c) whether Government are considering further concessions for the landline subscribers, like reduction in call charges, increase of call duration and free broadband connections etc., if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main reasons for surrendering landline connections are as follows:

* Closure of office/company
* Shifting of office/company
* Closure due to non-payment of telephone bills.
* Economic reasons
* Surplus of telephone connections or migration to cellular mobile connections.

The details of landline phones surrendered and new connections provided during the current calendar year in Delhi and other metros are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) Tariffs are revised and various plans/schemes are introduced keeping in view, the prevailing market conditions from time to time to meet the customer requirement, aspirations for all segments of society and to keep the landline service competitive.

Statement

Details of landline phones surrendered and new connections provided during the current calendar year in Delhi and other metros

Months	Delhi		Mumbai		Kolkata TD		Chennai TD	
	Surrender	New connections provided	Surrender	New connections provided	Surrender	New connections provided	Surrender	New connections provided
January, 2006	8171	19181	11378	14027	12490	8691	15383	6581
February, 2006	7363	20274	9108	12304	21972	22779	13699	8420
March, 2006	8234	17309	5938	39337	5594	67349	6899	19372
April, 2006	7136	9480	15664	16355	5640	14870	22195	7230
May, 2006	9408	10379	14928	12484	22986	23295	10798	7935
June, 2006	9022	11391	14989	14783	24289	26736	11119	8221
July, 2006	8634	9356	14615	8780	32211	30384	10114	8396
August, 2006	9553	10771	13736	11986	6626	5770	10524	5992
September, 2006	8492	14594	15592	16375	5606	6424	7422	5730
October, 2006	6969	10765	7699	12120	8252	11460	3767	4638
TOTAL:	94550	148756	138350	183384	220752	220752	111800	82515

It may be seen that there is a net addition of landlines phones.